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City of Fairfax NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Fairfax Prepares to Conduct Deer Sterilization Program

FAIRFAX, Va. — The City of Fairfax is making preparations to begin its participation in a research program to manage the resident deer population within the City through the humane sterilization of female deer. The program, which is authorized by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will be conducted during the nighttime hours from January 31 through February 6, 2014 by White Buffalo, Inc. under an agreement with the city which has been funded by non-governmental grants.

The City of Fairfax Police Department will be providing assistance to the White Buffalo personnel to assure their safety and the safety of citizens. Uniformed officers in marked patrol vehicles will be accompanying the contractor's teams as they conduct the program. The procedure for sterilizing the deer will include locating the animals which must be in public or open spaces, tranquilizing the animals by use of a dart, transporting the tranquilized deer to Police Headquarters where licensed veterinarians will perform the sterilization procedure and then carefully returning each animal to the general area where it was first located. The animal may appear slightly confused as it recovers from the tranquilizer, which will leave no harmful lasting effects.

The tranquilizing darts will not be used if there are any occupied dwellings or vehicles in the background or any persons in proximity to the deer. If a deer makes its way onto private property after receiving the dart, permission of the resident or owner will be sought in order to make recovery of the animal.

The contractor for this program, White Buffalo, Inc., has conducted similar deer sterilization programs which have been successful in curtailing the deer population in several other communities without injury to the animals involved.

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